

## EFFECT OF WEATHER ON CROPS AND FARMING OPERATIONS, MARCH, 1920.

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The weather during the first decade of March was very unfavorable for farm operations and the advance of vegetation in practically all sections east of the Rocky Mountains. Much damage was done by low temperatures in the Southern States and there was considerable snow and much stormy weather in northern districts, while dry weather was harmful in the southern Great Plains. It was too cold for winter wheat to make material advance in the principal winter-wheat belt, while lack of moisture and cold, high winds were detrimental in portions of the Great Plains. The seeding of spring grains was delayed by unfavorable weather.

The soil was too wet to work in central and eastern districts during most of the second decade of the month, but temperatures were more favorable in the South where crops slowly recovered from the effect of the damaging temperatures earlier in the month. Frequent rains, however, permitted of little preparation for cotton and corn planting in this area. Winter grains made better advance than during the first decade. Ranges improved in the West, and stock were benefited by milder temperatures, but more moisture was needed in the Southwest.

Vegetation made fairly rapid advance in southern and central districts during the last decade of the month, but it was rather cool in the West and considerable damage occurred to fruit in the far Southwest. The weather was more favorable for farm operations in most of the South, but general rains made the soil too wet for work in many central localities. Corn planting was behind the average season at the close of the month, but this work had progressed northward to southern North Carolina, Tennessee, and southeastern Missouri. Cotton planting was progressing slowly and germination was rather poor in most sections. Under the influence of warmer weather and ample soil moisture there was a widespread improvement in winter grains during the last decade of the month, but high winds were rather trying to winter wheat in the southern Great Plains. The seeding of spring grains made rapid progress west of the Mississippi River during this period but wet soil had caused considerable delay in districts to the eastward. Southern truck crops made satisfactory advance the latter part of the month and the comparatively warm weather caused good development in pastures and meadows.